

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (New): A system comprising:

at least one automaton, said at least one automaton provided with a data-exchange function, said at least one automaton connected to sensors and/or actuators;

a communication line; and

B1 a microcomputer connected to communicate with said at least one automaton through the communication line connected to a microcomputer input, said microcomputer comprising an automaton interface driver, an operating system, and a spreadsheet program, wherein said automaton interface driver cooperates with the operating system to provide commands from said spreadsheet program and to receive data from said at least one automaton through said communication line and microcomputer input.

Claim 6 (New): The system recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one automaton comprises remote inputs/outputs, and said sensors and/or actuators connected to said at least one automaton are configured to communicate data to the communication line and to receive microcomputer commands and/or data from the microcomputer via the communication line.

Claim 7 (New): The system recited in Claim 5, wherein said automaton interface driver emulates the proprietary language for the control and/or dialog and/or parameterizing and/or program download functions of said at least one automaton.

Claim 8 (New): The system recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one automaton further comprises memory operatively arranged to store a characteristic of operation of said at least one automaton.

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Claim 9 (New): The system recited in Claim 5, wherein said spreadsheet program is dynamically associated with at least one other program, said system further comprising means for processing said data received from said at least one automaton by said at least one other program.

Claim 10 (New): The system recited in Claim 5, wherein said automaton interface driver organizes spreadsheet program commands into messages for transmission to said at least one automaton.
